

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 PPT-01 L-03
H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06
/033 W

-----251742Z 109892 /46

R 251350Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1170
AMCONSUL CALI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, EC, CO (MORMON MISSIONARIES)
SUBJECT: VISAS FOR MISSIONAIRES

REF: QUITO 2541 (NOTAL)

1. REFTEL REPORTED SEVEN MORMON MISSIONARIES CROSSED INTO
EQUADOR FROM COLOMBIA AND WERE REFUSED THE VISAS THEY
EXPECTED TO OBTAIN THERE TO RETURN TO COLOMBIA.

2. MISSIONARY GROUPS (INCLUDING MORMONS) HAVE IN THE PAST
OBTAINED PERMANENT VISAS FOR COLOMBIA, BUT IN LAST 18 MONTHS
HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING VISAS FOR
NEW OR REPLACEMENT PERSONNEL. DELAY BECAUSE GOC IS
STUDYING ALL MISSIONARY PROGRAMS IN COLOMBIA. MISSIONARY
GROUPS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SUPPLY DETAILED INFORMATION
CONCERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES. ON BASIS THESE SUBMISSIONS
SOME GROUPS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING SOME VISAS BUT ISSUANCE
HAS BEEN SPOTTY AND IRREGULAR.

3. VARIOUS GROUPS (INCLUDING MORMONS) HAVE BEEN
CONSIDERING USE OF 90 DAYS TOURIST VISAS OR TOURIST
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CARDS, PERHAPS IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROGRAM OF ROTATING
PERSONNEL AMONG ANDEAN COUNTRIES ON SHORT TOURS THUS
MADE POSSIBLE. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION HAS BEEN SHORT TRIPS
TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TO ALLOW SUCCESSIVE 90 DAYS PERIODS.
MORMONS ARE ATTEMPTING LATTER TACTIC. HEAD, MORMON
MISSIONARY DISTRICT HEADQUARTERED IN BOGOTA, SAYS THEIR
EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NEW 90 DAY TOURIST VISAS VIA VISITS TO

TO VENEZUELA WERE SUCCESSFUL. EFFORTS OF MORMONS HEADQUARTED
IN CALI WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL AND LED TO PROBLEM DISCUSSED
IN REFTTEL.

4. WHEN PROBLEM OF VISAS RAISED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WITH
EMBOFF BY HEAD BOGOTA DISTRICT, MORMONS WERE ADVISED THAT
SUBTERFUGE LIKELY TO BE DISCOVERED BY COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES.
IN LIGHT OF THE ABOVE BELIEVE CHURCH AUTHORITIES WHO SENT
SEVEN MISSIONARIES TO QUITO WERE AWARE OF RISKS INVOLVED.

5. EMBASSY TOLD THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR
PERSONAL EFFECTS TO BE SENT TO SEVEN MISSIONARIES IN QUITO.
ALSO UNDERSTAND A NUMBER OF MORMON MISSIONARY LEADERS WILL
BE MEETING SHORTLY IN QUITO AND WILL DISCUSS PROBLEM THEN.
MORMONS WILL AGAIN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN 90 DAY TOURIST VISAS
FROM COLOMBIAN COSUL IN QUITO FOR SEVEN MISSIONARIES (THEY
BELIEVE THEIR TYPE MISSIONARY WORK IS PERMISSIBLE UNDER
COLOMBIAN LAW WITH TOURIST VISA).
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Sent Date: 25-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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